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28 January 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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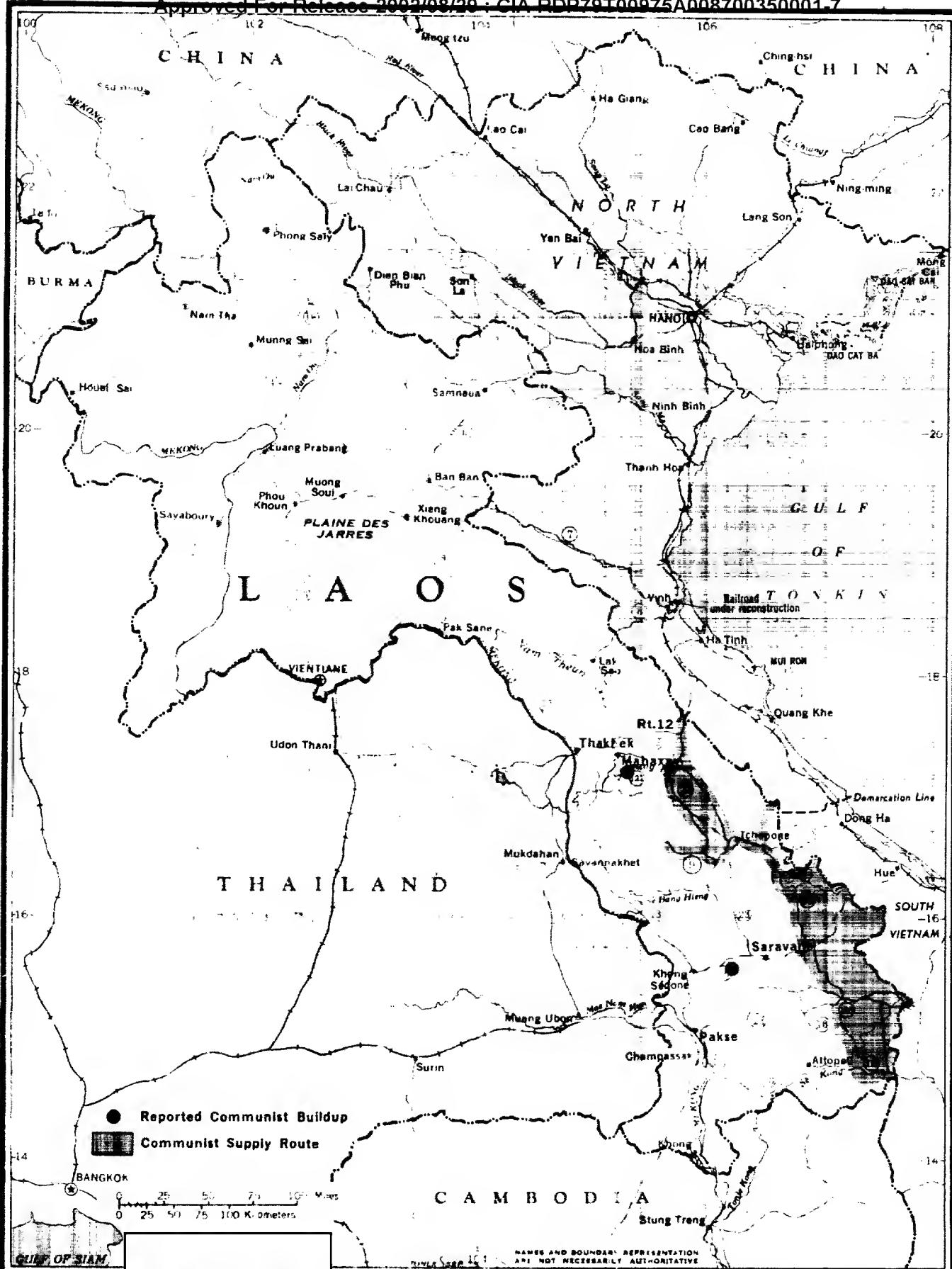
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Laos: [New Communist probes in the Laotian panhandle may be in the offing.]

[Increased enemy activity in an area southeast of Mahaxay, reportedly involving substantial numbers of North Vietnamese troops, may signal increased pressure against government positions around Thakhek. Some of this activity may be troop redeployments necessitated by stepped-up government air strikes. Reports of substantial truck movements on Route 12 over the past two weeks and continuing reports of enemy efforts to build access roads to advanced positions suggest that some build-up is under way, however.]

[Farther south, there are indications of an enemy build-up between Saravane and Pakse to the southwest. No significant attacks have been launched thus far, but government positions in this area have been subject to increasing harassment in recent weeks.]

[These ground movements are coincident with a spate of recent Pathet Lao exhortations calling for vigorous "countermeasures to aggression." Communist statements continue to allege that the US is planning to invade the Laotian corridor.]

Greece: The chances of survival of the palace-supported Stephanopoulos government appear to have worsened since Parliament reconvened last week.

The government, with a parliamentary majority of two, is in serious trouble over its pending tax bill. In the committee stage last week, the bill failed because of the abstention of deputies from the conservative National Radical Union (ERE) and the Progressive Party, both of which support Stephanopoulos. The income tax portion of the bill is opposed by the leader of the Progressives and so doomed for defeat.

In addition, the ERE leader has supported extreme leftist criticism of King Constantine's New Year's message, and a cabinet member resigned last week for personal reasons. Stephanopoulos' foreign and finance ministers are also leading a factional fight within their own Liberal Democratic Center party. Some important elements in the government may now be willing to consider a reconciliation with ex-premier Papandreu, the nemesis of the palace, should Stephanopoulos fall.

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NOTES

Cyprus: Archbishop Makarios' talks in Athens with Greek officials beginning today may signal a new diplomatic effort to resolve the island's status. Greece apparently will propose three procedural courses: direct talks between Makarios and the Turkish Cypriots, a renewal of UN mediation efforts, and the resumption of talks between Athens and Ankara. Although Makarios might accept any of these courses, there is still wide disagreement over the substance of any possible solution.

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*Dominican Republic: The military leaders continue their adamant refusal to accept new assignments, and sentiment seems to be mounting in the armed services to move against Garcia Godoy. The President has expressed a willingness to make at least some concessions to the service chiefs, but mistrust and bitterness seem to be inhibiting realistic negotiations. During the next several days the left will probably press for the quick ouster of the chiefs, and there are tentative indications that Juan Bosch will threaten to call a general strike over the issue.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 27 January 1966 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 11-6-66, "Anti-Communist Resistance Potential in the USSR and Eastern Europe"
[Redacted]

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